



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Lava Beds National
Monument**

**Lava Beds National
Monument**
1 Indian Well Headquarters
Tulelake, CA 96134

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

October 6, 2011

For Immediate Release

Dave Kruse 530-667-8101

Lava Beds National Monument Plans Prescribed Fires

Lava Beds National Monument plans to ignite the Crescent Butte prescribed fire beginning Tuesday, October 11 if conditions are favorable. The prescribed fire will cover 201 acres in the Monument, and implementation will take 2-3 days. The unit is primarily shrubs, bunchgrass, juniper, and mountain mahogany with scattered Ponderosa pine. The Crescent burn unit was last treated with prescribed fire in 1985. Since the natural cycle of lightning-caused fire in this ecosystem is between 3 and 25 years, prescribed fire will mimic this cycle.

The prescribed burn will be located near the campground and Visitor Center. Closures will be in place for the campground "B" loop during the burn. Visitors can expect temporary road closures or delays for public safety.

Superintendent Dave Kruse stated, "Reducing brush under existing large Ponderosa pines will provide protection from the effects of future fires. Reducing brush in other areas will allow pine stands to expand into areas where they previously existed."

Kruse added, "The policy of using fire as a tool will help decrease risks to life, property and resources and help perpetuate the resource values for which Lava Beds National Monument was established."

As with every prescribed fire, The Crescent Butte unit will be ignited only when sufficient firefighting resources are in place and weather conditions are favorable enough to give firefighters the upper hand in containing them to designated areas. Fire Management Officer Syndy Zerr stated, "During all of these operations public and firefighter safety is the number one consideration in everything we do."

For additional information, call Lava Beds Fire Management Officer at 530-667-8122.

-NPS-